WRL News

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Resisting the Draft

By Michael Mongeau

Never has it been *only* draft registration—but now it has become a judicial, legal, penal, and political morass. The initial indictments for noncooperation with Selective Service draft registration have resulted in convictions. Enten Eller, a religious pacifist, chose only to state his faith in God as totally opposed to militarism. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years probation, 250 hours of community service, and ordered to register within 90 days. Strange indeed, to be sentenced with the very act he was found guilty of; Eller has stated he still will not register. Ben Sasway was found guilty in the San Diego Federal court and has been sentenced to 30 months in jail (he is out on $10,000 bail pending appeal). He was found guilty without being permitted to present his complete case or position. Held without bail until sentencing, the U.S. Attorneys argued,

"... In the instant case, the defendant believes himself to be at the forefront of 500,000 people who are violating the laws of this country. Defendant has urged his followers to disobey the same laws he has disobeyed. Defendant has produced nothing to show a severance from his criminal background.

Day by day, defendant intends to disobey the law. The risk of his continuous illegal activities constitutes a danger. It is no defense that the defendant's crime was based on a moral decision, rather than greed or jealousy....

... The danger of releasing defendant is that he will encourage others to follow his example in selecting laws which he feels are unworthy of his respect..."

Then I too as a pacifist am *a danger* to this nation. Draft registration is a necessary part of conscription, it is more than a first step to the draft, it is an integral part of making war. I stand firm with Enten and Ben; while encouraging all to resist this and every form of military mobilization.

Eight more indictments have followed the first two. They have come, as Washington suggested, in rural areas, away from large urban centers. The cases seem to follow no judicial pattern; sometimes indictments were issued where a student attended college, sometimes where parents live. The resisters have held political, religious, anarchist, and a wide range of personal beliefs. Yet all have held one common thread. Resistance to draft

continued on page 4

Support demonstration for Ben Sasway, October 4, 1982, co-sponsored by WRL/Dallas. Photo by Earl Cabell

Nicaragua Faces New Challenges

By Matt Meyer

In early September, a delegation of 14 representatives from national peace and religious organizations went on a fact-finding tour to Nicaragua and Honduras. The stated purpose of the delegation was to witness effects of U.S. foreign policy on those two countries, and gather more direct information about recent occurrences in the entire region. But it was not simply a general interest in Central American geopolitics that brought us there—the likelihood of a full scale war developing between Nicaragua and Honduras grows stronger by the week, and there is no doubt that the United States will be involved.

Over the past three years, the Nicaraguan government, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), has begun to implement some policies to bring Nicaragua a secure peace and independence. A six month Mass-Mobilization Literacy Campaign, which involved over 60,000 students and literate adults, spread teachers from the cities into small neighborhoods and less populated farms across the country. New hospitals have been built throughout the land, and, a greater priority on preventative techniques and vaccination campaigns against polio and malaria have brought the infant mortality rate down.

No one can objectively deny some of these advances of the last three years. Yet the Reagan administration sees the Nicaraguan government as an aggressive one, in cahoots with Cuba and the Soviet Union, "dedicated to exporting violent revolution," according to Thomas Enders, the Under-Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. "It was the Sandinista government which regionalized the conflict in Central America by supporting the violence in El Salvador... and now Nicaragua is promoting violence in Costa Rica and Honduras."

Same old story, huh?—the domino theory. Soviet expansionism via Cuba now via Nicaragua—a neat explanation for the growing problems facing U.S. government and U.S. business interests in Guatemala, El Salvador and the entire region. But the

continued on page 5

Interventions, Israel, Terrorism and Double Standards

By David McReynolds

There have been several letters from WRL friends (and some from enemies!) which have asked why we did not act more vigorously on matters such as the Iran/Iraq war, the Falkland/Malvina war, the Vietnam/Cambodia war, etc. Some have felt we had a double standard, being critical of Israel and not more sharply critical of the PLO. Others felt we had been too silent in the face of Israeli aggression in Lebanon.

I will try to answer these points—"in 1,000 words or less," as our editor, Susan Pines, told me. First, there are only 24 hours in a day and this requires we give greater priority to some things than to others. The Falklands/Malvina issue, to take one excellent example, came when our staff was exceptionally hard at work on last June's events. More to the point, there is a vigorous section of the War Resisters International (WRI), in England. It organized strong and effective protests, and since we belong to the same International we felt that was a proper sharing of work.

However, since we *are* discussing this war, my brother sent me a rough translation someone had handed him (he works in a newspaper office) of a poem by Jorge Luis Borges, which was printed in a Mexican newspaper. The poem, in its quiet way, says what *each* section of WRI tries to say (poets are dangerous people)!

Often there are situations—the Iran/Iraq war is an appalling but excellent example—where there is nothing we can do, no control or influence we can exert. We are not indifferent to the massive suffering of our sisters and brothers in those two countries but there is no easy handle by which we can act.

In the case of Israel and the PLO, we *have always* opposed the terrorism of all sides there. I quote in full the 7th point from the 10-point statement on the Middle East issued by the WRL in 1974:

The compassion of humanity, if it is to be authentic, must be universal and not selective. the terrorism in which the Israelis, Arabs, and Palestinians have engaged cannot be excused. The roots of terrorism in the Middle East go back too far for there to be any real merit in locating the first victim. All have become victims. The policy of an eye for an eye has left the terrorists morally sightless, and many innocent dead. From the isolated murder in Oslo to the killings in Munich, from the dead at Rome, Athens and Lod airports to the killings in Beirut, the trail of death mus end now.

If, however, some of us may seem more disturbed about Israel, it is because the United States supplies vast sums for military and economic aid to Israel—and does not even recognize the PLO. Of course we condemn PLO terrorism—but we also oppose the appalling Israeli habit of calling every Palestinian a "terrorist." If the U.S. was sending guns to the PLO and not to Israel, *it would be the PLO on which we would naturally focus our main attention.*

Begin says, "Don't lecture me—you who killed civilians in World War II in German cities, you who were silent about the killing of the Jews, you who applauded the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, you who supported the war in Vietnam." And he is right—Begin is blood brother, in the worst sense, of all the terrorists of our time. Certainly he should not be lectured by Reagan. But WRL *will* lecture Begin. We opposed Hitler when others were silent. We opposed the terror bombings of German cities. We opposed the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We opposed the murderous U.S. policy in Vietnam. *And we oppose Israeli foreign policy.* Begin may not like it, but we will make it clear that while he has double standards, we do not. We shall not be silent now about killings carried out under the Israeli flag—no more than we were silent when they were carried out under the American flag.

I do, however, think the major leaders in the American Jewish community need to do some very long hard thinking about double standards. When I hear that public attacks on Israeli policy may lead to anti-Semitism, I feel that I have heard a similar thing from American Communists who argue that any attack on Soviet "errors" aids anti-Sovietism. In fact, the power of the radical vision rests as much in its integrity as in its analysis. Those who have been silent about the corruption of the Soviet Revolution helped make that corruption possible. And any—Jews or non-Jews—who are silent in the face of present Israeli policy are enemies of the best and highest values of Judaism. Without justice and truth, of what merit is the Judaic tradition? The conspiracy of silence in the face of evil is the ultimate act of betrayal, not of solidarity.

Finally, WRL *has* been active during the Lebanon crisis, in demonstrations, coalition work, telegrams to all our locals to urge work against the destruction of Beirut. It is our hope that a drafting committee now at work will soon have a public statement on the Middle East.

David McReynolds is a member of the WRL national staff.

Juan Lopez and John Ward
(a rough translation from Spanish)

by Jorge Luis Borges

It was their luck to be born into a strange time.

The planet had been parceled out among various countries, each one provided with loyalties, cherished memories, with a past undoubtedly heroic, with rights, with wrongs, with a particular mythology, with bronze forefathers, with anniversaries, with demagogues and symbols.

This arbitrary division was favorable for wars.

Lopez was born in the city beside the tawny river; Ward, on the outskirts of the city where Father Brown walked. He had studied Spanish in order to read Quijote.

The other one professed a love for Conrad, who had been revealed to him in a classroom on Viamonte Street.

They might have been friends, but they saw each other face to face only once, on some overly famous islands, and each of them was Cain, and each was Abel.

They were buried together. Snow and corruption know them.

The incident I mention occurred in a time that we cannot understand.

War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee Formed

By Ed Hedemann

"Nationally, only 13 people have been identified as so-called 'war tax resisters,'" according to IRS spokeswoman Amy Otten in an interview with a Vermont newspaper last May.

Well, either the war tax resistance movement in this country has *more than* quadrupled in less than four months or the IRS has a serious problem in underestimating our strength. About 60 war tax resisters from 17 states met on September 18 in Washington, D.C., to plan national and regional war tax resistance strategies for the coming year.

The War Tax Resistance Action Conference designated April 1–15 to be a time of nationally coordinated local and regional actions around military spending and war tax resistance. A National WTR Coordinating Committee was formed to facilitate these activities, plan for another national strategy meeting in May, and investigate mechanisms to improve networking and information sharing nationally. The next meeting of the Coordinating Committee will November 20–21 in St. Louis.

The Conference, jointly called by the Center on Law and Pacifism (CLP) and the War Resisters League, was the first such gathering since the Indochina War. Besides WRL and CLP there were representatives from Conscience and Military Tax Campaign, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peacemakers, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Sojourners, World Peace Tax Fund, Friends, Mennonites, and about 15 local or regional war tax resistance centers. Among the participants were Ernest Bromley, Marion Bromley, Juanita Nelson, and Wally Nelson—all of whom have been war tax resisters since the 1940s. Ernest Bromley, the first known war tax resister in modern times, was jailed two months for his resistance in 1942.

During a plenary of the Tax Conference. Ernest Bromley is in the second chair from the right in the foreground. *Photo by Ed Hedemann.*

Ed Hedemann is a member of the WRL national staff.

The Conference was designed to deal only with proposals of action, strategy, networking, or campaigns. There was no discussion of the hows and whys of war tax resistance, since the participants were organizers and counselors. Almost two dozen written proposals were presented for consideration. Because of the shortage of time (seven hours) and number of people, the Conference split into three working groups to deal with the proposals: actions an specific dates, national structure and campaigns, and legal strategy and educational programs. The working groups brought back their recommendations for final decisions by the plenary.

There were numerous proposals for April actions: marches, rallies, vigils, letter-writing, and even a "nude-in." Legal strategy proposals included a class action suit to establish a CO-status for taxpayers, setting up legal research teams, and endorsement of the WPTF and the CMTC ideas. A couple of proposals argued for organizing of clinics to train war tax counselors. Another proposal suggested the promotion of symbolic tax resistance in order to create a mass movement. Several proposals suggested a formation of a national coalition, a task force, or a coordinating council to aid in information sharing, networking, and coordinating actions. Producing a directory of wtr centers and counselors, publishing a newsletter, holding meetings, doing a national census of

continued on page 8

Juanita Nelson, Wally Nelson, and Marion Bromley before the start of the Tax Conference. *Photo by Ed Hedemann.*

International Organizing—The Italian Connection

By Igal Roodenko

Our War Resisters' International conferences are always full of delight. Going to the International's meetings every three years, is, I suppose, like a traditional person's going to church on Sundays: real piety is how you live the other six days of the week, but it's nice to meet with your coreligionists on Sundays to see that you're not alone and to have your moral batteries recharged. War resistance, peace building, is something you do day-to-day at home, but every three years it's good to meet old friends and make new friends as we discover, again, that we're part of a vigorous and broad movement.

Perugia (in Italy) was my fourth Triennial. There were difficulties, as always. This time we had to be bussed from our sleeping/eating quarters at one end of town to the meeting place at the other. But busses, as I've learned from Greyhounds, are helpful in meeting strangers.

And the strangers this time were refreshingly youthful (or am I getting older?). The new wave of energetic anti-militarism that is bursting out all over washed through our meetings. This emphasized for me that, as important as hard information may be, our major need today is more energy and imagination to act on what we already know. Lots of people, particularly here in wise-guy New York, know how senseless are the political conditions of our lives. What is needed is the will to act on this knowing.

The youthfulness of the conference attenders meant something more: young folks don't have much money and the International is really hurting. We're over the worst difficulties of a few years ago, but the needs are pressing, particularly now with such increased activity in Europe. Please remember to send us a little extra designated for the WRI next time you write us.

It was also at Perugia that we first heard of Comiso. The Reagan administration has been having a rough time selling its cruise missiles to Europe. The Dutch parliament turned them down cold. Belgium has a strong anti-nuke movement. France, whether gaulist or socialist, has for years been playing a role independent of the U.S. West Germany has a growing anti-nuke Green Party which may well become the decisive third party in next year's elections. And much of Italy has a growing anti-nuke movement (often spearheaded by the Partito Radicale, a WRI member). Except—maybe?—in south Italy and Sicily: poor, rural, underdeveloped, unsophisticated. The missile bases will bring jobs, money, excitement—they'll be welcomed!

Washington was wrong. Is wrong. Last spring a million Sicilians, almost half the adult population, signed petitions opposing the announced cruise missile site for Comiso. The major political parties of Sicily have all expressed at least nominal opposition. The protest camp that was set up has attracted people from all parts of Italy, as well as from much of western Europe (and, finally, a few of us Americans).

Amiable Vagueness

Luckily, at times, for me that I didn't know any Italian. Otherwise, as an old "movement heavy," I'd have tried to tell them the "right" way to do things. Their way is not, quite, my way, but its authentically theirs and therefore good.

One afternoon we had speechmaking in the town square at the same time some others were gathering empty cardboard cartons with which to build a wall, some fifty feet long and eight feet high, across the square in front of the mayor's office. Then, parts of the wall were taken down and everyone was invited to write and draw on the cartons. Many town youngsters joined in and the wall was reassembled. We ended up with many smiling suns, ND symbols, No al Missili, Pax, Peace, and so on. What a sight!

The next day (with no overnight guards!) the wall was taken down and the cartons carried in a procession to the missile site, some three miles away, there to be rebuilt right up against the gate. The police said we couldn't do that: the Ministry in Rome said that there must be at least six meters between our wall and the gate. Well, we understood the Ministry's concern, but we're democratically structured and have to discuss and reach consensus on what would be an appropriate response.

So, while some 30 folks sat in front of the gate in deep discussion, the police waited. And waited. Meanwhile the wall was being built up against the gate.

It is true that the police were unusually pleasant and relaxed. It was also true that our nonviolence was equally pleasant and relaxed. The winning formula here seems to have been one of firmness with a thin patina of amiable vagueness.

Comiso is of prime importance. It is where the people of western Europe can clearly say *no* to the U.S. omnicide machine. They, and we, have to make the ongoing campaign clearly anti-militarist, if not outright pacifist. Otherwise we make it easier to be accused of wanting "only" to weaken the U.S. Otherwise we fall into the juvenile-Capitalist-Communist game of good guys/bad guys.

The good folks of Sicily, of Italy, of Europe, have started this work. Let's join them.

Igal Roodenko is a member of the WRL national staff.

COMISO: The Distant Front Line

Comiso (pronounced Co-MEE-so) is of special importance because the struggle to block deployment of Cruise missiles is being fought there. West Germany has said they will deploy the Cruise—after some other country does so first. The Italian government has agreed to the "honor" of being first. And it chose Comiso because this old military base in Sicily is very hard for protesters from the Italian mainland to reach—and the government can count on the Mafia as a "chilling influence" on local protests. Cruise missiles in Comiso cannot reach very far into the Soviet Union—but will give the U.S. a "nuclear reach" over the entire Middle East, increasing nuclear tensions there.

Opposition has begun, starting with active support from the communities around Comiso. Catholics and Protestants have joined the protests, as has the Green Party of Germany, the Partido Radical of Italy, Socialists from France, and Communists from Yugoslavia and Spain as well as Italy. A peace camp has been established at Comiso. In addition to Igal Roodenko, Americans who have visited Comiso include W.H. Ferry, and key figures from CALC and FOR. Every effort is being made by the Italian pacifist movement to keep the campaign grassroots so that it can be supported by all *political groups. The provisional address for the International Center is: CU-DIP, c/o Isidora La Lumia 5/7, 90139 Palermo, Sicily, Italy.*

Draft Resistance

continued from page 1

registration is a clear and strong opposition to war and its preparation.

As more cases unfold, a draft advances by leaps and bounds into our society. Military Selective Service Regulations have been published, making an already terrible phenomenon worse than ever imagined. (Ten days notice before induction, for example.) Members of draft boards have been named, trained, and wait on hold in every state in the U.S. The Internal Revenue Service and Social Security System have begun to experiment in before unheard of exceptions to the 1974 Privacy Act in order to assist in the search for nonregistrants. Only the fear of countersuits has limited the turning over of IRS files to the Selective Service System. Congressional legislation has already linked Federal education loans to proof of registration; and contemplated bills would limit food stamps, Federal employment, and public assistance to only those who could prove that they had already registered for the draft. Even the hard fought right to conscientious objection has been reduced to an Alternative Service System which must first meet the needs of "national security." "1984" has arrived two years early.

Throughout the world, a ground swell of action has brought people to work against nuclear weapons. As each nonregistrant looks at the incredible growth of the peace movement, and at himself, he wonders less about the weapon, and more about the war. Which war? Why? Where? Nearly all the left, and an increasing majority beyond, agree that wars of Third World intervention are wrong. Very few would support a conflict to defend the greed of some bloody dictatorship or corporate concern; even the Pentagon must link up super-power struggles to defend their Third World policies and plans. Yet the current nonregistrant is taking this feeling further. They are saying *no* to a shopping list of wars around the world. I hear and see current draft resistance saying no to the very practice of wars.

Noncooperation with the imbalances that wars perpetuate *is* positive and life affirming. Whether wars maintain rich over poor, developed over undeveloped, white over color, violence over justice, it is in their very nature a military diversion from real human problems that must be solved for peace to begin. Draft resistance, in an already vivid patchwork of public resisters, is saying yes to living that change. Nonregistrants are taking a first step towards total disarmament in their steadfast adherence to nonviolence in place of armed forces' attempting to resolve real human problems.

Opposition to draft registration is not being for a volunteer army. The vision of security sold by the war planners and makers will never make the world safer. Security, represented by large conventional weapons and armies, falls prey to all the arguments that clearly show nuclear weapons do not protect. They endanger and threaten.

The all-volunteer army is anything but volunteer. Men and women, blacks, Spanish-speaking, the chronically poor are already drafted—conscripted by their poverty, their color, or their oppression. To provide more jobs of oppression does not make the system voluntary, but continues the history of injustice. By turning away from war preparation and looking towards the real difficulties that people face—the need for work, food, shelter, and self worth—the complex situation can be changed. Otherwise militarism will continue to obscure this vexing situation, people will continue to die and problems will continue unsolved.

Resistance to war is not without its consequences. The few who have publicly announced their not registering have risked much. They will face censure, imprisonment, and hardship. The many who have silently not registered have risked less, but they too face consequences for their acts. I strongly support and continue to encourage all to not register, for this is not an isolated act. Whatever the basis for their noncooperation, their action is important. As each individual tests the waters of their own thoughts and turns them into decisions; then each takes another step towards self-empowerment. It is in the practice of these little steps which makes big movements. And in this way it is crucial to support each nonregistrant—not necessarily in getting them out (which is okay), but in their act. The subtle irony of the current conscription is that safety seems to rest in silence. Yet this may well be temporary, especially when silence will also lead to condoning that to which we remain quiet.

Draft resistance is a first step towards life without war. It is a step so important that I encourage all to take it and to support it. The ability to raise armies is the basis for man's sorry story of power and greed, a legacy of fear. Not cooperating with this draft or any draft (conscripted or volunteer) leaves useless the foundation for war-making. Reducing the pool of fear that would force all into the military as a course of history, can only increase the ability of each to change their own life, one by one by one.

So not only do I encourage each to not register I ask you to consider helping. Offer your help, your knowledge, your money, and your experience. The draft would isolate each individual for the use of the warmakers. Those who have chosen to not cooperate need to know loudly and clearly that we all hear, and those who have yet to decide need to know that the system of conscription does not work if we resist it. To cooperate voluntarily with enforced registration is a voluntary decision. To lay aside the fear, and say no is to change the system.

Michael Mongeau is a member of the WRL National Committee and works on issues of the draft and registration for the Friends Peace Committee in Philadelphia.

1983 WRL Calendar Available

There Is No Way to Peace, Peace Is the Way may prove to be one of the most useful WRL Calendars in the 29 years WRL has produced them. The 1983 Calendar is the movement version of Bartlett's quotations. It contains 267 famous (and some not so famous) quotations on war, peace, and social justice.

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The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

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Nicaragua

Continued from page 1

situation in Central America is changing quickly, and for people concerned with peace and social justice a *new* attention must be paid to the events of the last few months.

As fighting continues in El Salvador and Guatemala, Honduras—the only country to border both countries as well as Nicaragua—becomes more and more key to the politics of the region. Sixty percent of their economy is dominated by Castle and Cook (Standard Brands), United Brands and Chase Manhattan Bank. There is a growing but not yet massive movement against the government in Honduras, which makes the country even more attractive and open to direct and friendly relations with the U.S. government. On August 31, the former head of Honduran Military Intelligence, Colonel Leonidas Torres Arias, charged in a press conference held in Mexico, that the current head of Honduran Armed Forces, General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, intends "to involve the Honduran people in a criminal and bloody campaign" against Nicaragua, and that he was "a man obsessed, an adventurer, ambitious, extremist and repressive."

Nevertheless, United States military aid has climbed tremendously from $3.53 million in 1980 to a proposed $15.3 million in 1983. An additional $17 million has been proposed in the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and it is likely that at least some of an additional $21 million proposed is already being spent on the upgrading of three Honduran air strips to accommodate U.S. jet fighters, which would then have open access to the air fields for military purposes. The U.S. and Honduran army have already begun carrying out joint border patrols.

According to a statement made on June 30th, by Senator Pell of Rhode Island, "This proposal (for airstrips) has grave foreign policy implications not the least of which is the potential for involving the U.S. even more deeply in the turmoil in Central America. Such a move sends a signal to the world, and especially to those in Central America and the Caribbean, that the U.S. is indeed preparing for deeper involvement, including direct military intervention."

The part of the delegation to visit Honduras reported fear of repression among many sectors of the population and were given a list of names of more than 100 persons who have "disappeared" in Honduras in the past year. They were told of "numerous acts of harassment, illegal detention, and assassination of opposition leaders" carried out by government security forces. "We were struck," they report, "by the omnipresence of the U.S. power and influence in Honduras—historically,through the U.S. banana companies, and currently through the U.S. Embassy."

Besides the military build-up, Honduras has been a haven for refugees of the region. El Salvadorean refugees have fled to Honduras for shelter, often being chased by the army. On the Nicaraguan border, ex-Somoza national guards are supposed to have modernized military training camps, in complicity with the Honduran army and receiving aid and advice from the U.S. and Argentina.

The Central American Historical Institute reports: "A relief worker in Tegucigalpa (capital of Honduras) said that the counterrevolutionaries have the use of two Honduran military vehicles. He said that at first the "contra" activity appeared to be autonomous but then planes began arriving from Tegucigalpa carrying large quantities of arms and equipment."

Though Honduran civilians have admitted that those camps exist, and Nicaraguans along the Northern border say they can hear and sometimes see these "contra" camps in training, the Honduran government has continued to deny their existence. Yet there is no other realistic explanation for the direct attacks on Nicaragua coming from the North:

—On our trip to the Wasminoch resettlement area in the North Atlantic, we were told by members of the town Rosita that the neighboring town, Bononza, was attacked in late July by 60 counterrevolutionaries.

—One of the largest, most organized and bloody of the attacks occurred on July 24th in the northwestern town of San Francisco del Norte. One hundred counterrevolutionaries crossed the Honduran/Nicaraguan border into the small town, killing 15 of the civilian militia. Eight others were kidnapped and taken to Honduras, one of whom, a young child, escaped and fled back to Nicaragua.

—On August 31st, according to the Central American Historical Institute, a group of 60 counterrevolutionaries based in Honduras attacked a storage depot in the North Atlantic. The health clinic was destroyed and two million dollars in equipment being used to construct a road from the east to the west coast was destroyed.

—A communique from the Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Relations was issued on

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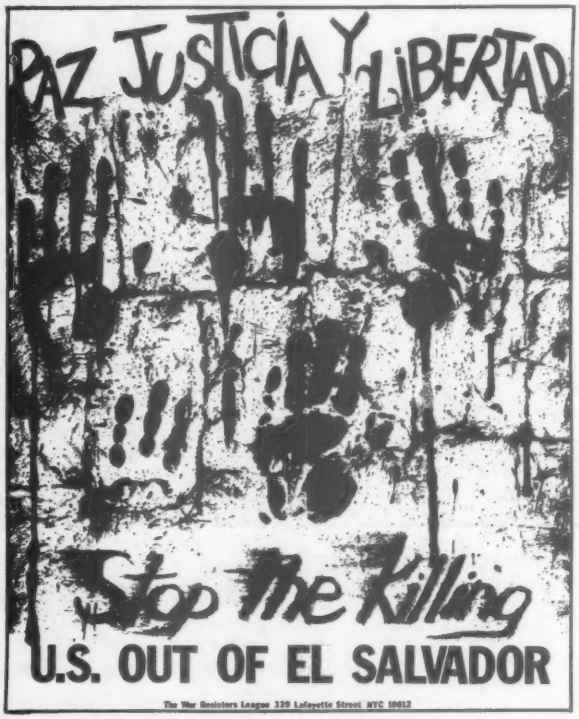

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August 19th in protest to a violation of territorial water by the United States Destroyer Spruance. The destroyer was located ten miles off the Pacific Coast, armed with sophisticated surveillance equipment as well as offensive armaments, artillery, rockets and torpedos.

—The delegation had a meeting on September 10th with Commander Luis Carrion, Vice Minister of the Interior, and one of the nine FSLN national directorate. He told of a recently captured counterrevolutionary who was found with "specially prepared backpacks for explosives—plastic explosives with detonating devices...dry rations, radio equipment, very professional types of equipment that not just any person can get a hold of."

And while these attacks have steadily increased, the U.S. preparations for war are also being stepped up:

—Thomas Enders' aggressive speech declaring the Sandinistas "a hard core group of Marxist-Leninist ideologues," has been seen by the Nicaraguans as an indication of readiness for war on the part of the U.S. government.

—$19 million in Central Intelligence Agency money for covert action to "destablize" the government of Nicaragua continues with the acceptance of the Reagan administration.

—Finally, the Symms resolution which approves the possibility of sending American *troops* to Central America and the Carribean, "to contain Cuban aggression in the Western Hemisphere by whatever means necessary," was passed in the Senate on August 11th by a vote of 69 to 27. Senator Charles Percy, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, called the resolution "a Gulf of Tonkin resolution for Cuba."

Where will all this lead? One possible scenario could be an even more organized attack on the Nicaraguan border from the camps in Honduras. Nicaragua could respond to the attacks and cross the border, whereupon Honduras would declare violation of border and request aid. The U.S. would then have an open door to aid the poor country of Honduras from the violent revolution-exporters of Nicaragua. But it is clear from all those that we met that the Nicaraguan people will not give up their new life. They are a proud and nationalistic people who have been told what to do for too long. We were repeatedly assured that the people would die before surrendering their revolution.

And the revolutionary, idealistic people of Nicaragua *will* die, along with innocent people in the entire region. Many have died already and are dying at this moment. *Our* job is to stop this cycle now by including educational and practical information on Central America and U.S. intervention in all aspects of our work. We must participate in mobilizations and stress the links between increased U.S. arms spending and repression abroad. Though the methods of non-violent revolution are not prevalent in Central America, the message of peace is clear

As Commander Luis Carrion said—"We know war, and we don't want more war. That is all we ask for. I do not think that is asking for too much."

Matt Meyer, a WRL member and public non-registrant for the draft, was WRL's representative on the delegation that visited Nicaragua in September.

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To order, or for further description, write:
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For holiday cards with a more religious message contact the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960.

Roodenko, McReynolds on West Coast Tours

Starting in November and going through the end of the year, Igal Roodenko will be touring California. David McReynolds will be in southern California (and possibly the northern area) for a shorter time—two weeks in early December. Both are effective speakers, able to present the pacifist case clearly. Publicity material, photos and biographical sheets are available on request. Where possible, honorariums are needed to cover travel and living expenses. For information write or phone the WRL national office or WRL West, 85 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117, 415/731-1220.

Local Organizing

By Grace Hedemann Hane

There are several WRL Locals in formation. Special note should be made about the new WRL Local in Santa Barbara, California. There are also several new groups forming in the South as well as in Santa Cruz, California; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Tacoma, Washington.

Most of the Locals' reports received by press time concern Hiroshima/Nagasaki activities. For instance, **Morgantown WRL** in cooperation with Committee Against Reagan Economics and WILPF organized a one-hour silent vigil on August 6. The turnout was small, but the press coverage was excellent in the local newspaper and on the radio. Larry Gara, National Committee member from Ohio, reported that the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base vigil on August 6 was the largest ever held with 125 attending. Three Dayton TV stations and various area newspapers and radio stations covered the event. In addition there were three days of events in Cincinnati and a 3-day vigil at Piketon, Ohio. **New Brunswick WRL, Dallas WRL** and **Norwich WRL** organized events around Hiroshima/Nagasaki. **Atlanta WRL** trained participants in the civil defense sit-in mentioned in the September/October *WRL NEWS*.

A major demonstration organized by **Norwich WRL** on September 11 in coalition with AFSC, New Haven Atlantic Life Community, Greater Hartford June 12th Committee and Pax Christi in Michigan and Connecticut protested the commissioning of the Trident Michigan, the second Trident to join the Navy. The commissioning took place in Groton, Connecticut at Electric Boat where the submarine was built. Nine protesters were arrested for blocking access to the commissioning, and another two protesters were arrested on other charges.

Grace Hedemann Hane is a member of the WRL national staff.

Binder Needed

Because back issues of *WRL News* and *WIN* are used frequently by the WRL staff (and numerous visitors), we find that these issues are often lost, misplaced, or damaged. One way to remedy this situation is to get them bound. If anyone knows of someone who can inexpensively bind (non-leather) these issues, please let us know.

WRL Regional & Local Offices

WRL National Office, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012 (212-228-0450)
WRL/Southeast, 604 West Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701 (919-682-6374)
WRL/West, 85 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117 (415-731-1220)

ALABAMA
Birmingham WRL, 567-B Tyler Loop Rd., Pinson, AL 35126 (205-681-7034)
Mobile WRL, P.O. Box 6414, Mobile, AL 36606 (205-471-6008)
CALIFORNIA
Inland Empire WRL, 1336 North Wall Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92404 (714-889-3170)
Santa Barbara WRL, 7432 San Bergamo, Santa Barbara, CA 93117 (805-685-3404)
Southern California WRL, P.O. Box 928, Arleta, CA 91331 (213-469-4207)
COLORADO
Foothills WRL, 3024 Ross Dr. #A-4, Ft. Collins, CO 80521 (303-482-9641)
CONNECTICUT
Norwich WRL, P.O. Box 1093, Norwich, CT 06360 (203-889-5337)
FLORIDA
Central Florida WRL, P.O. Box 6208, Orlando, FL 32853 (305-896-0703)
GEORGIA
Atlanta WRL, 1225 Cameron Court N.E., Atlanta, GA 30306 (404-378-3237)
HAWAII
Hawaii WRL/catholic Action, 1918 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822 (808-949-1210)
IDAHO
Pocatello WRL, 603 South 10th St., Pocatello, ID 83201 (208-233-4541)
ILLINOIS
Oak Park WRL, 645 North Taylor, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312-386-0192)
INDIANA
Evansville WRL, c/o Clark Field, 420 S.E. 2nd St., #B, Evansville, IN 47713 (812-428-7996)
Muncie/Ball State WRL, P.O. Box 401, Student Center, Muncie, IN 47306
Citizens for Peace & Social Justice/WRL, 1312 W. Washington Blvd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46804 (219-426-0165; 489-3561)
MICHIGAN
Detroit WRL, 1542 W. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48208 (313-833-3197)
MISSOURI
Columbia WRL, 509 Clinkscales Rd., Columbia, MO 65201 (314-445-4348)
Ozarks Area WRL, 626 E. Normal, Springfield, MO 65807 (417-864-4078)
St. Louis WRL, 962 Warder, St. Louis, MO 63130 (314-726-4662)
NEW JERSEY
Monmouth County WRL, P.O. Box 131, Fair Haven, NJ 07701 (201-747-0566; 842-6539)
New Brunswick WRL, P.O. Box 1895, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (201-846-5843)
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Albuquerque WRL, 5021 Guadalupe Tr. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107 (505-344-1140)
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Pittsburgh WRL, 5406 Bartlett St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (412-422-0377)
TEXAS
Dallas WRL, 2701 Woodmere, Dallas, TX 75233 (214-337-5885)
VERMONT
Lamoille Peace Coalition/WRL, P.O. Box 43, Johnson, VT 05656 (802-635-2618)
WEST VIRGINIA
Morgantown WRL, P.O. Box 744, Morgantown, WV 26505 (304-292-9678)
WISCONSIN
LaCrosse Area WRL, 614 So. 16th St., LaCrosse, WI 54601 (608-782-2136)

War Tax Resistance

continued from page 3

war tax resisters, taking out national ads, and helping tax resisters get in touch with one another were among the other ideas this national grouping might take on.

Though the participants were united in their commitment to resist taxes for the military, there was sufficient diversity to produce some differences. Some wished to emphasize networking and coalition building; others wished to emphasize actions next spring. Some participants wanted to stress legal approaches (one proposal even sought to exclude illegal actions), while others saw resistance and non-cooperation as more important. Some people opposed the creation of a centralized organization, or even *another* new organization, seeking to support existing grass roots groups.

All in all, though nothing *monumental* came out of the Conference, it did provide a first step towards strengthening the war tax resistance movement. And it has opened the door to the possibility of a national clearinghouse, or similar structure, to aid war tax resisters across the country.

Information on tax resistance (with a feminist/pacifist perspective); protesting income taxes; resisting income taxes; telephone tax resistance; information about IRS; a critical look at right-wing tax evasion; statements from tax resisters; resources. 60¢ to cover printing/postage. Write: Tax Resistance, 331 17th Ave. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

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WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 18 countries.

Staff: Karl Bissinger
Ralph DiGia
Ed Hedemann
Grace Hedemann
Greta Lindstrom
David McReynolds
Susan Pines
Igal Roodenko

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